



Byron Shire Council's Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program Guidelines

1. Overview

Byron Shire Council's Regenerative Agriculture funding program assists farmers and landholders to adopt sustainable farm management practices that will improve the health and productivity of their land. Regenerative Agriculture is about working with nature to help improve ecological functions, biodiversity and build soil carbon whilst producing food. The grants will improve management of our natural resources, and increase sustainable on-farm productivity and resilience to climate change.

Farmers are invited to apply for funding for on farm activities that will help improve the ecological functions of their land, quality of their soil, and productivity of their land.

A limited number of grants of up to \$3500 (GST) inclusive are available for eligible activities. Grants will be awarded through a competitive, merit-based process and applications will be assessed based on the extent to which they address the program objectives and key selection criteria detailed within this Grant Opportunity Guidelines document.

All funded projects are to be completed by the end of the financial year in which they are awarded. See our website for applications opening and closing dates.

2. Key dates

- 1 August 2024 – Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program opens
- 16 September 2024 – Applications close
- October 2024 – Notification to applicants, Decisions Advised

3. Program Objectives

The Objective of this program is to assist landholders in developing on farm practices that:

1. Improve ecological functions on farm through improved land management
2. Increase soil health and water holding capacity
3. Increase on farm biodiversity
4. Increase farm productivity



4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible you must:

1. Be a landholder, a group of landholders, a farmer group or association that actively farms Rural (RU1, RU2) or large lot Residential (R5) land in the Byron Shire. If you are not the landholder, you must have consent from all landholders and/or relevant authority for projects put forward.
2. Meet at least one of the programs objectives.
3. Complete all sections of the online application form
4. Ensure you have supplied quotes for ALL goods and services that you are seeking funding for AND provide quotes for goods and services you will be paying for as your contribution to the project. Goods or services to be paid for with the grant need to be addressed to Byron Shire Council and cannot exceed \$3500 in total.
5. Be able to provide a cash and/or in-kind contribution equal to or greater than the value of funds requested.
6. Be willing to work with Council staff in the delivery of the project.
7. Commit to delivering the project and improving farming practices beyond the life of the grant.
8. Be willing to host a community farm walk with other farmers from the Byron Farmers Network, funded and supported by the Byron Shire Council to showcase and discuss the project.

5. Eligible Activities

The grant can be used for a range of activities that contribute to one or more of the program objectives. Some examples of eligible grant activities that may be undertaken include:

- Fencing and water infrastructure to create more paddocks accompanied with a grazing plan for timed grazing implementation.
- Fencing off and revegetation of damaged riparian zones, creeks or dams.
- Trialling and showcasing more ecologically sound forms of weed control reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals. i.e. use of effective microorganisms
- Support to produce and use environmentally friendly soil amendments such as compost and biochar by utilising on farm and local “waste” recourses.
- Integrated Pest Management, the introduction of biological control of bugs and insects that may effect crops and enhance production such as dung beetles, and other beneficial insects.
- Installation of artificial hollows and nest boxes to attract beneficial predators and native fauna. i.e. nest boxes for rodent predators
- Development of worm farms and utilising castings and juice as a way of developing humus and building soil.
- Use of cover crops for soil building, biodiversity and aiding productivity.



6. Selection Criteria

The following assessment criteria will be used to determine a projects suitability for the funding and overall ranking relative to other applicants.

1. Activity: The extent to which the project meets one or more program objectives.
2. Benefit: The potential and scale of environmental benefits arising from the proposed activity.
3. Feasibility: Clearly defined project with measurable outcomes and a realistic and achievable project timeframe.
4. Budget: Value for money and level of cash and/or in-kind contribution. Reliably represents the project expenses.

7. How to apply

Before applying for this grant, make sure you have thoroughly read this Grant Guidelines document. As part of your application, you will be required to include:

- A project site plan (Refer to Appendix 1 for guidance)
- A project budget and quotes (Refer to Appendix 2 for guidance)
- Received letters of authority from **all** landowners (If the applicant is not the only landowner). Letters must include a statement such as "As the owner/s or appointed authority of the subject land, I/we give consent to the lodgement of this Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program application".

Applications can be completed online via the Council's website <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Regen-Ag-Small-Grant>

To apply using a paper form please contact Council's Agricultural Extension Officer on 02 6626 7223 or agriculture@byron.nsw.gov.au .

8. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application process, or would like to discuss ideas that might be suitable for your particular context, please feel free to contact our Agricultural Extension Officer by phone: 02 6626 7223 or email: agriculture@byron.nsw.gov.au



Appendix 1. Guide to preparing a project site plan

Below are some of the ways you can prepare your site plan for your submission:

- 1) Use free mapping tools such as Google earth pro to prepare a digital map for print or screen shot your map to send digitally. (If wanting to learn this tool our Agriculture Extension Officer can walk you through using it) [Earth Versions – Google Earth](#)
- 2) Contact Councils Ag Department and request a high resolution electronic or hard copy arial photo of your property. Use this to draw up your site plans.
- 3) Use a drone to take arial images of your property
- 4) Hand Draw the site plan, providing as much detail as you can to show location of site and existing elements.

Farm project plans must clearly show locations of ALL intended activities proposed in your project.

Appendix 2. Project budget

A project budget is required to clearly outline what will be grant funded and how you will match your in kind contribution either through labour, machine time, costs or inputs.

Costs should be clearly split into those to be covered by grant funds (not greater than \$3,500) and the contributions (cash and/or in-kind) provided by you, the applicant. Applicant contributions should be equal to or greater than the requested amount.

Quotes for ALL goods and services that you are seeking funding for AND quotes for goods and services you will be paying for as your contribution to the project are required.

Goods or services to be paid for with the grant need to be addressed to Byron Shire Council and cannot exceed \$3500 in total. These quotes must be uploaded when completing your online application.



Example Budget

In the example below, a farmer is requesting fencing infrastructure to install new semi-permanent fencing and temporary fencing with a supplied grazing plan to show how they will create 10-30 extra paddocks to activate planned grazing which will help build soil and increase productivity on a 100 acre property.

Activity	Descriptions	Cost	Grant funded or applicant contributions
Portable fencing geared reel and Wire	2 x portable fencing reels 2 x 400m 3.5mm wire	\$615	Grant funded quotes from local supplier attached.
Portable fencing	Pig tail portable fencing posts 7 x 10pk	\$305	Grant funded quotes from local supplier attached.
Portable solar energiser	2 x s200 solar fence energiser	\$1650	Grant funded quotes from local supplier attached.
Permanent internal fencing to be electrified	7 x 10pk star pickets, 1500mm roll of wire, strainers, and insulators	\$930	Grant funded quotes from local supplier attached.
Fencing and pipe installation by farmer	30hrs x \$45/hr	\$1350	Applicants in kind contribution.
Portable water troughs	2 x 200 litre	\$780	Applicants in kind contribution quotes from local supplier attached.
Rural pipe for portable water plan	200m Rural Poly	\$1150	Applicants in kind contribution quotes from local supplier attached.
Pipe parts for portable water system	Coupla connectors, 18mm hose and fittings, elbows and connectors.	\$305	Applicants in kind contribution quotes from local supplier attached.
	TOTAL GRAT FUNDS	\$3500	
	TOTAL IN KIND/CASH	\$3585	